

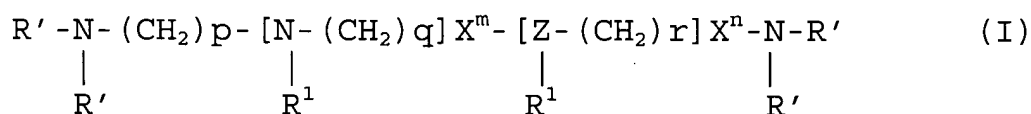
In the Claims:

1. – 25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a polyalkylenimine or a salt thereof, wherein said polyalkylenimine or said salt comprises (a) two or more hydrophobic groups and (b) a base skeleton comprising seven or more nitrogen atoms, wherein the degree of alkylation ~~substitution~~ on said nitrogen atoms is $\leq 24.5\%$.

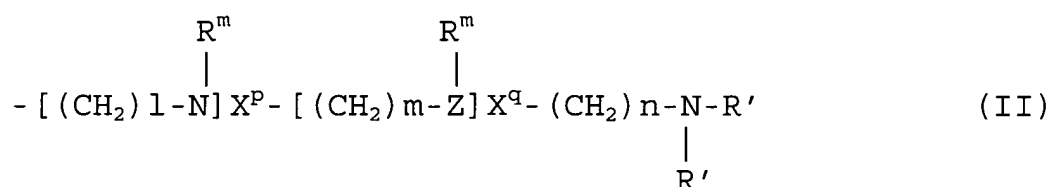
27. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 26, wherein the hydrophobic group is a cholesterol residue, a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group, a saturated or unsaturated acyl group, or a phospholipid residue.

28. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 26, wherein the polyalkylenimine is a compound represented by formula (I):

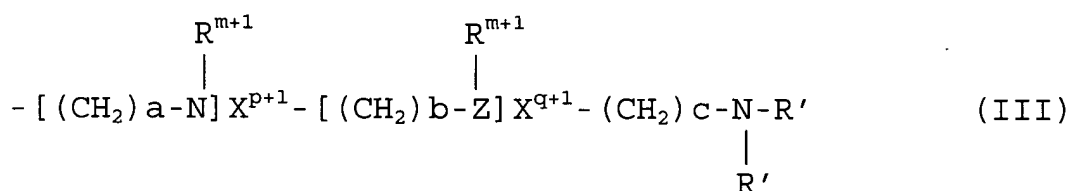


wherein the base skeleton may contain an amide bond; Z represents a carbon or nitrogen atom; R' represents hydrogen, a cholesterol residue, a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group, a saturated or unsaturated acyl group, or a phospholipid residue; two R's binding to the same nitrogen atom can be identical or different; a side chain R¹ is hydrogen, a

cholesterol residue, a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group, a saturated or unsaturated acyl group, a phospholipid residue, or below formula (II); and p, q, r, Xⁿ, and X^m represent arbitrary natural numbers:



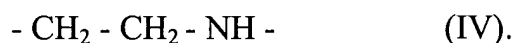
wherein the side chain R^m may comprise an amide bond; Z represents a carbon or nitrogen atom; R' represents hydrogen, a cholesterol residue, a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group, a saturated or unsaturated acyl group, or a phospholipid residue; two R's binding to the same nitrogen atom can be identical or different; a side chain R^m is hydrogen, a cholesterol residue, a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group, a saturated or unsaturated acyl group, a phospholipid residue, or below formula (III); and l, m, n, X^p, and X^q represent arbitrary natural numbers:



wherein the side chain R^{m+1} may comprise an amide bond; Z represents a carbon or nitrogen atom; R' represents hydrogen, a cholesterol residue, a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group, a saturated or unsaturated acyl group, or a phospholipid residue; two R's

binding to the same nitrogen atom can be identical or different; and a, b, c, X^{p+1} , and X^{q+1} represent arbitrary natural numbers.

29. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 28, comprising the repeating structure of formula (IV) in the base skeleton:



30. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 29, wherein two to five molecules of tetraethylenepentamine are linked in a linear manner.

31. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 30, wherein any two or more of side chains R' , R^1 , R^m , or R^{m+1} comprise a group selected from the group consisting of ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, nonyl, decyl, undecyl, dodecyl, tridecyl, tetradecyl, pentadecyl, hexadecyl, heptadecyl, octadecyl, nonadecyl, and eicocyl groups.

32. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 30, wherein any two or more of side chains R' , R^1 , R^m , or R^{m+1} comprise a group selected from the group consisting of butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, nonyl, decyl, undecyl, dodecyl, tridecyl, tetradecyl, pentadecyl, hexadecyl, heptadecyl, and octadecyl groups.

33. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 29, wherein the structures of formula (IV) are linked in a branched manner.

34. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 33, wherein any two or more of side chains R' , R^l , R^m , or R^{m+1} comprise a group selected from the group consisting of ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, nonyl, decyl, undecyl, dodecyl, tridecyl, tetradecyl, pentadecyl, hexadecyl, heptadecyl, octadecyl, nonadecyl, and eicocyl groups.

35. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 33, wherein any two or more of side chains R' , R^l , R^m , or R^{m+1} comprise a group selected from the group consisting of butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, nonyl, decyl, undecyl, dodecyl, tridecyl, tetradecyl, pentadecyl, hexadecyl, heptadecyl, and octadecyl groups.

36. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 28, wherein the base skeleton comprises one or more spermine structures.

37. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 36, wherein two to five molecules of spermine are linked in a linear manner.

38. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 36, wherein any two or more of side chains R' , R^1 , R^m , or R^{m+1} comprise a group selected from the group consisting of ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, nonyl, decyl, undecyl, dodecyl, tridecyl, tetradecyl, pentadecyl, hexadecyl, heptadecyl, octadecyl, nonadecyl, and eicocyl groups.

39. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 36, wherein any two or more of side chains R' , R^1 , R^m , or R^{m+1} comprise a group selected from the group consisting of butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, nonyl, decyl, undecyl, dodecyl, tridecyl, tetradecyl, pentadecyl, hexadecyl, heptadecyl, and octadecyl groups.

40. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 36, wherein the spermine structures are linked in a branched manner.

41. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 39, wherein any two or more of side chains R' , R^1 , R^m , or R^{m+1} comprise a group selected from the group consisting of ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, nonyl, decyl, undecyl, dodecyl, tridecyl, tetradecyl, pentadecyl, hexadecyl, heptadecyl, octadecyl, nonadecyl, and eicocyl groups.

42. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 39, wherein any two or more of side chains R' , R^1 , R^m , or R^{m+1} comprise a group selected from the group consisting of butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, nonyl, decyl, undecyl, dodecyl, tridecyl, tetradecyl, pentadecyl, hexadecyl, heptadecyl, and octadecyl groups.

43. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 36, further comprising phospholipid.

44. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 43, wherein the phospholipid is a neutral or basic phospholipid.

45. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 44, wherein the phospholipid comprises a phosphatidylethanolamine or phosphatidylcholine skeleton.

46. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 44, wherein the phospholipid is a diolelyphosphatidylethanolamine or phosphatidylcholine.

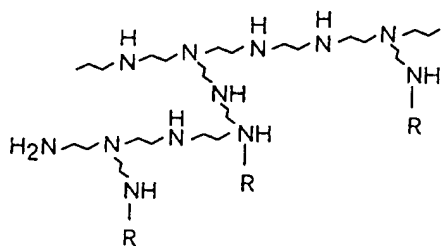
47. (Previously Presented) A complex comprising a physiologically active substance comprising a negative charge and a composition of Claims 26.

48. (Previously Presented) The complex of claim 47, wherein the physiologically active substance comprising a negative charge is a nucleic acid or its derivative.

49. (Previously Presented) A method for introducing a physiologically active substance comprising a negative charge to cells, said method comprising a step of contacting the complex of Claims 47 with cells.

50. (Previously Presented) A kit for preparing the composition of Claim 44, comprising a phospholipid and a polyalkylenimine or a salt thereof having two or more hydrophobic groups per molecule.

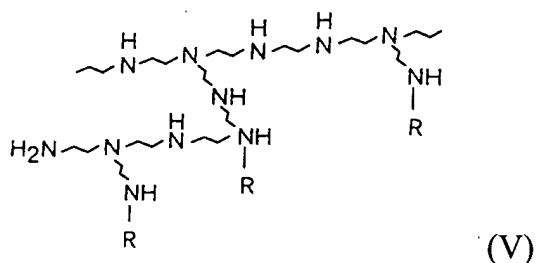
51. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a polyethylenimine or a salt thereof, wherein said polyethylenimine has a repeat unit represented by formula (V), and the average molecular weight of said polyethylenimine is about 600 Da:



(V)

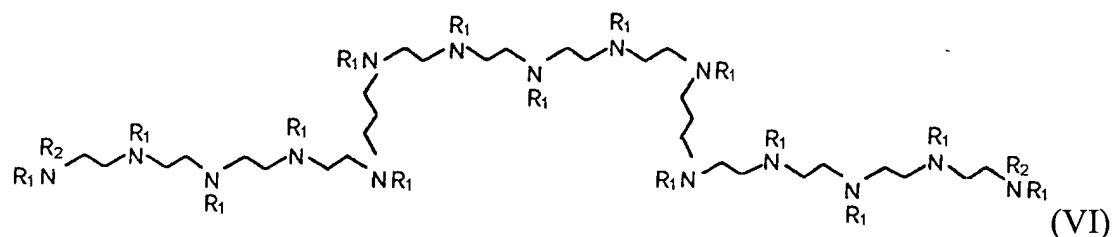
wherein R represents C₁₀H₂₁, C₁₂H₂₅, C₁₄H₂₉, C₁₆H₃₃, or C₁₈H₃₇.

52. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a polyethylenimine or a salt thereof, wherein said polyethylenimine has a repeat unit represented by formula (V), and the average molecular weight of said polyethylenimine is about 1800 Da:



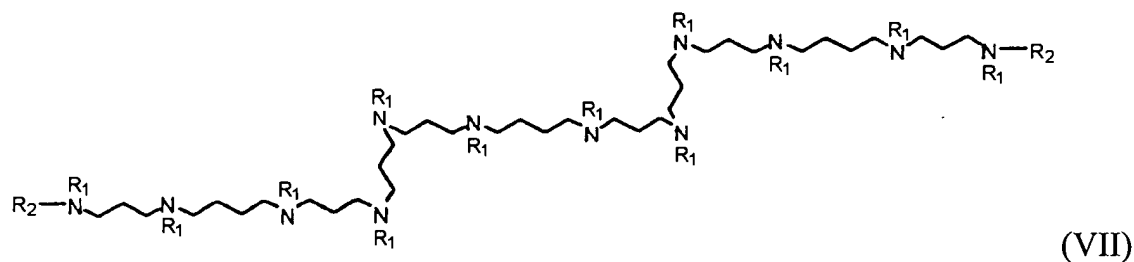
wherein R represents $C_{16}H_{33}$.

53. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a polyethylenimine or a salt thereof, wherein said polyethylenimine is represented by formula (VI):



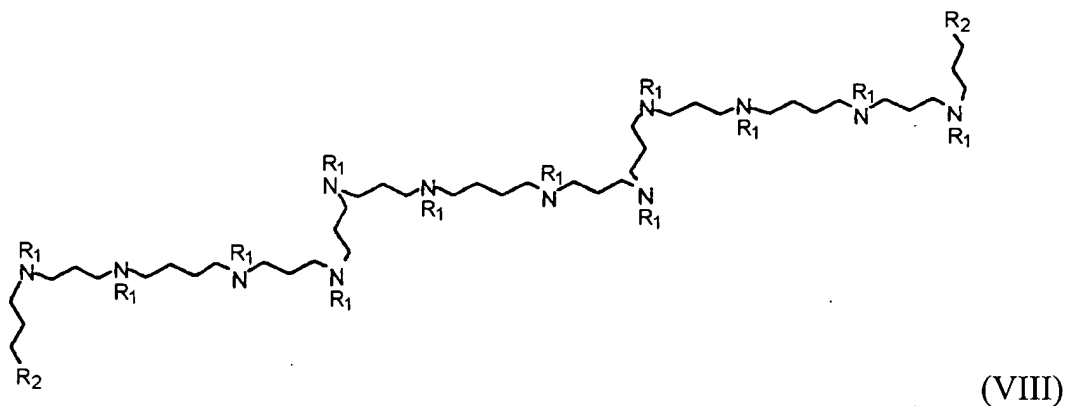
wherein R_1 represents hydrogen or a tosyl group; and R_2 represents $C_{16}H_{33}$, $C_{12}H_{25}$ or C_8H_{17} .

54. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a polyethylenimine or a salt thereof, wherein said polyethylenimine is represented by formula (VII):



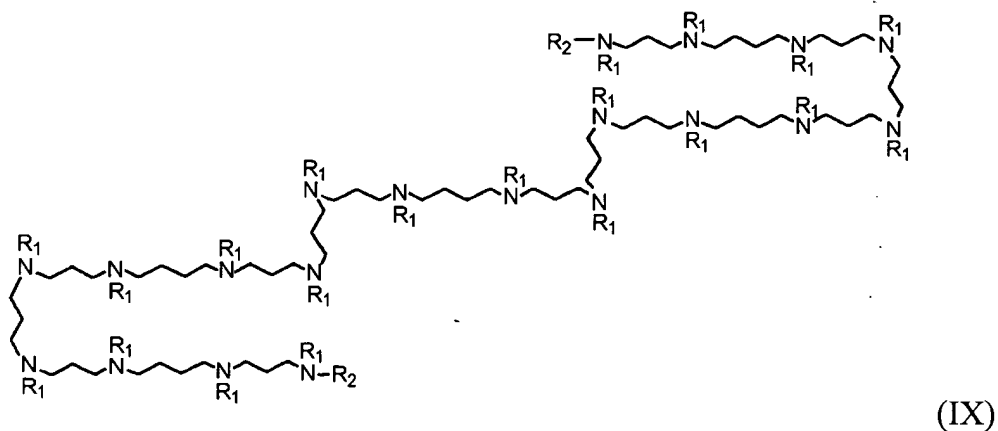
wherein R_1 represents hydrogen or a tosyl group; and R_2 represents $C_{16}H_{33}$, $C_{12}H_{25}$, C_8H_{17} , or C_4H_9 .

55. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a polyethylenimine or a salt thereof, wherein said polyethylenimine is represented by formula (VIII):



wherein R_1 represents hydrogen or a tosyl group; and R_2 represents a hydroxyl group, bromide, or $(CH_3)_3C(CH_3)_2SiO$.

56. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a polyethylenimine or a salt thereof, wherein said polyethylenimine is represented by formula (IX):



wherein R₁ represents hydrogen or a tosyl group; and R₂ represents C₁₆H₃₃.

57. (Previously Presented) The composition of any one of Claims 51 to 56, further comprising a phospholipid.

58. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 57, wherein the phospholipid is a neutral or basic phospholipid.

59. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 58, wherein the phospholipid comprises a phosphatidylethanolamine or phosphatidylcholine skeleton.

60. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 58, wherein the phospholipid is a diolelphosphatidylethanolamine or phosphatidylcholine.

61. (Previously Presented) A complex comprising a physiologically active substance comprising a negative charge and a composition of any one of Claims 51 to 56.

62. (Previously Presented) The complex of Claim 61, wherein the physiologically active substance comprising a negative charge is a nucleic acid or its derivative.

63. (Previously Presented) A method for introducing a physiologically active substance comprising a negative charge to a cell, said method comprising a step of contacting the complex of Claim 61 with said cell.